covered with telephone facilities in the years 2001-2002 as well as the number of villages left without telephone facilities in the said States have been reported to be as under:

State	Number of villages left without telephone facilities	Villages covered with telephone facility in 2001-02
Uttar Pradesh	252	10,581
Orissa	6,675	10,392
Jharkhand	2,768	9,980
Uttaranchal	4,039	2,162
Madhya Pradesh (including Chhattisgarh)	18,972	3,989
Rajasthan	16,696	73
North-Eastern Region	16,454	3,016

Some of the villages are reported to be in thick forests, naxellite infested, disputed, depopulated or affected by law and order problems or need satellite media. Private sector companies licensed for providing telephone service in Madhya Pradesh (including Chhattisgarh) and Rajasthan have not been able to fulfil their committed performance obligations. They have consistently being insisted upon to complete their unfulfilled performance obligations either on their own or by working out arrangements to utilize infrastructure of other service providers in their services area for this purpose.

Internet/E-mail/Computer facilities in rural and tribal areas

3001. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any comprehensive scheme for providing internet, e-mail and computer facilities in the rural and tribal areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Information Technology has implemented the following schemes for this purpose (i) The Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology has undertaken a scheme for setting up Community Information Centre (CICs) at 487 block headquarters in the seven North-East States and Sikkim for promoting application of Information Technology for accelerating socio-economic development of the region. The scheme is being implemented in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim. 475 CICs have been set up till date.

(ii) Pilot implementation of Rural IT Centres (Samadhan Kendras) has been completed in Ramanathapuram District of Tamil Nadu and 3 more Samadhan Kendra Projects are ongoing in Ujjain (MP), West Godavri District (AP) and Chitrakoot (MP). These provide connectivity to internet as well as e-mail and computer facilities to the villagers through localised centres. Besides this, a whole range of other information facilities required in rural areas are fulfilled through Samadhan Kendras.

Ministry of Rural Development has also taken various measures in this direction. The details are given at Statement (*See* below).

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Various measures taken by Ministry of Rural Development for providing internet, e-mail and computer facilities in rural and tribal areas of the country

Ministry of Rural Development is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on computerisation of Land Records (CLR) in the country since 1988-89 which includes rural and tribal areas also. This Scheme is being implemented jointly by Ministry of Rural Development and National Informatics Centre (NIC). Fund are being provided by Ministry of Rural Development to States/UTS for installation of Computers at District and Tehsils/Taluk centres and so far 582 districts and 2959 tehsils/taluks/ blocks of the country have been brought under the programme.

Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission, under the Ministry of Rural Development provides assistance at the rate of 100 percent to the

States and Union Territories for procurement of hardware, office automation packages, training of manpower and development of application software for computerisation up to the division level offices of the line departments. The total Central funds released to States/Uts under the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission is Rs. 8923.73 lakhs (as on 26.7.2002).

The Ministry undertook a pilot project for providing VSAT connectivity to 15 District Rural Development Agencies(DRDAs) for providing internet facilities and a web based software for poverty alleviation and rural development programmes. The pilot project has been taken up in 15 districts in 11 States, namely Anantpur and Nalgonda in Andhra Pradesh, Thanjavur and Perambalur in Tamil Nadu, Etawah in Uttar Pradesh, Hosangabad, Narsinghpur and Jaisen in Madhya Pradesh, Solan in Himachal Pradesh, Hazaribagh in Jharkhand, Midnapur in West Bengal, Shillong in Meghalya, Chandrapur in Maharashtra, Sikar in Rajasthan and Almora in Uttranchal. The project endeavors to establish a system for flow in information in respect of Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY), Employment Assurance Scheme(EAS), Indira Awaas Yojana(IAY) and Watershed programmes. The total Capital cost of the project is Rs.99.00 lakhs. The implementing Agency for the project is National Informatics Centre(NIC) and no funds have been allocated/released to the States.

E-Commerce/E-Governance

3002. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of Net penetration in e-commerce in the country;

(b) the percentage of net penetration in e-governnance; and

(c) the steps being taken to increase its percentage in different fields/ sectors in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) the total Net penetration in India is estimated to be 0.375% of population in September 2002. Sector-wise details of Net penetration are not available with the Government.